An Essay
on
Nicotiana Tabacum
Respectfully Submitted
to the Faculty of the
Homœopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania
by
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of Pennsylvania.

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Nicotiana Tabacum.

Class. Pentandria. Order. Monogynia

1. Its History.

Tobacco, though indigenous to America, grows readily in most tropical and temperate countries; being cultivated as far north as Canada, and as far South as the cape of Good Hope. It numbers upwards of twenty Species; of which the Nicotiana Rustica, (Common Tobacco) the Nicotiana Macrophylla, (Oronoko Tobacco) the Nicotiana Persica, (Persian or Shiraz Tobacco), and the Nicotiana Tabacum (Virginian Tobacco) possess the most interest. The last, being introduced into Spain by Nicot in the sixteenth Century was named after him, while Tabacum

is derived from the name of the pipe used to smoke with, by the Indians; or as others say, from a province in Yucatan called Tobaco.

The different Species are all characterized by very large long and thick leaves; which when dried assume a yellowish brown color, and are manufactured into Snuff and the different qualities of segars and chewing Tobacco.

The flowers appear in July; they are tube-shaped and vary much in Color; those of the Nicotiana Tabacum are red, other species are green, while those of the Nicotiana Quadrivalis are perfectly white. Some have a nauseous odor, while the flowers of the Shiraz Tobacco

are said to be very sweet scented at night. The different plants are raised from seed sown in March; in September they have attained their greatest luxuriance, being from four to six feet in height; when the leaves are cut down, dried by a peculiar process and packed for exportation.

Although the consumption of this plant by Europeans dates back nearly three centuries; yet the practice of inhaling the smoke of plants for its exciting or stupifying effect did not originate with it; as we have accounts of the Saracens using Cannabis Indica (Indian Hemp) to nerve them to the conflict with the Crusaders.

Still later we have the almost Universal use of Opium among the Chinese and other Eastern nations.

2. Its Allopathic and Empyrical use.

Its has been employed by the Allopathic School principally as an Emetic and diuretic; also as an Errhine and Sialogogue. With bears grease it has been applied to Cutaneous Swellings, and to Eruptions, such as Tinea Capitis. It acts as a discutient to abscesses and local tumors. Poultices of the leaves with vinegar produce vomiting if placed over the Stomach, while a purgative effect and expulsion of worms follow a like application to the abdomen. The smoke injected has removed

obstinate Constipation and Ileus; and revived vital action in Trismus. The wine has acted beneficially in Dysury, and as a fomentation for the relief of Paraphymosis. Its Sialagogue properties prove useful in Odontalgia and Opthalmia; and its antispasmodic action relieves Asthmatic difficulties. The juice of the green leaves instantly cures the Stings of Nettles, and a decoction has been applied to kill vermin. Finally it has been ranked with Wine, Brandy and Opium as an antidote to contagia. Its effects depend chiefly on three ingredients. First; an alkali called Nicotin. This chemists obtain by distilling the leaves

with water and Caustic Ammonia, receiving the product in diluted Sulphuric acid. This being partially evaporated is redistilled, with the addition of a new quantity of Caustic Ammonia; and the resulting liquor deprived of its Ammonia by means of an exhausting air-pump contains, and will yield crystals of Nicotin. This according to Stood "As usually obtained is a colorless or nearly colorless liquid; heavier than water; remaining liquid at 22. F; of little smell when cold; of an exceedingly acrid burning taste even when largely diluted entirely volatilizable, and in the State of vapor very irritant to the nostrils with

an odor recalling that of Tobacco; inflammable; soluble in water, alcohol ether and oil of turpentine: Strongly alkaline in its reaction and capable of forming crystallizable salts with the acids. These Salts are deliquescent; have a burning and acrid taste, and like the Salts of Ammonia lose a portion of their base by heat. There can be little doubt that Tobacco owes its activity to this alkali. Tannin forms with it a compound of but slight solubility and might be employed as a counterpoison." The second active principle of Tobacco is a volatile oil. The third, an Empyreumatic oil not existing in the leaves, but generated

by smoking, or by their destructive distillation. Besides these ingredients chemical analysis has detected Supermalate of Lime, Acetic acid, Muriate of Ammonia, the Nitrate and Muriate of Potassa, Etc.

Tobacco ranks as an acrid narcotic poison, and does not yield its place in violence, intensity, or certainty of action to the Nux vom., or the Deadly Nightshade, which are included in the same class. In the following proving of this drug symptoms or diseases immediately followed by a mark of interrogation are asserted by different writers to have been caused by its inordinate use.

General Symptoms.

Great weariness especially of the extremities, with trembling of the hands under the least excitement. Extreme sensitiveness to, and suffering from the least pain. Desire to lie down with yawning. Dullness particularly in the morning on rising. Jaundice. Neuralgia. Palsy. Insanity (C) Amaurosis (C) Cancer of the lip (C) Delirium Tremens (C).

Characteristic Peculiarities.

Invasion of the symptoms in the morning on rising, or in the forenoon.

Aggravation from motion, and in damp misty weather. Amelioration by rest, the cool air or a draught of cold water.

Skin.

Dry burning heat of the skin. The least wound suppurates. Fœtid perspiration Yellow perspiration in the axillæ staining the linen. Dark greenish hue of the skin.

Sleep.

Great desire to sleep after dinner, with heat and fulness in the head, and flushed face. Sleep stupid sleep. Late sleep in the morning with chilliness and great indisposition to rise. Obstinate and distressing wakefulness. Nightmare. Restless sleep with starting and dreams.

Fever.

Chilliness in morning in bed about Seven O'clock. Creeps in the back & limbs.

Cold water increases the chills. Heat in the head and eyes. Flushed face with cold hands; or burning heat of the head and hands. Heat, painful dryness and stiffness in the eyeballs. Aching in the eyeballs. Steady boring pain in the pupil of one eye generally the left; aggravated by pressure, and relieved by cold applications. The pain is so severe as to produce nausea, and great exhaustion. Vomiting of sour water and mucus; or vomiting of sour and bitter substances. Empty gagging. Flushes of heat over the whole body. Flushes of heat after dinner. Mouth dry, parched, and cracked, with thirst in the morning on rising. The pulse

of Tobacco is full and slow; seldom quicker or more rapid than in health; unless it shoned be rendered so, by the severity of the pain, and the extreme nervous irritability of the patient.

Moral Symptoms.

Excessive irritability. Easily angered. Starts at the least noise. Morbid fear of robbers and dogs. Alternation of Gaity and sadness. Morose. Melancholy Tendency to weep. Dulness of the Mind Loss of Memory; particularly of names and especially of names of persons. Inability to collect ones thoughts. Indisposition to bodily or Mental Labor. Hysteria (?). Hypochondria. Disposition to commit suicide.

Vertigo in the morning and on rising
Sudden attacks of complete blindness
lasting a few moments after rising.
Complete blindness about nine in the
morning; which passed off to be followed
by intense pains in the head and eyes.

Head.

Pains in the left side predominate. If
they affect the eyeballs they are likely
to attack them alternately at different
times. Cold and strong pressure some-
what relieve the pains; though much
cold to the aching eyeballs produces
nausea. The pains drive the patient
to despair, and are accompanied
with restlessness, moaning, and
anxiety. Aggravation by motion and

ascending stairs. Pain as if the head would split on coughing or sneezing. The pains are throbbing, aching, burning or boring. Throbbing in the head on the least motion. The brain seems to undulate when walking. Fulness and pressure from within outwards in the eyebrows, and at the root of the nose. Agonizing aching in the forehead. Aching at the root of the nose. The pains are excruciating, and cause nausea. The root of the nose seems compressed in a vice. Aching in the frontal region on entering a warm room. Pressure on the vertex and at the root of the nose. Crawling in the scalp. Aching in the

Left Temporal ridge extending to the left orbital region, left eyeball, and root of the nose. Sudden pain in the supra-orbital regions on going into a bright sunlight. Sensation of undulation, of rocking from side to side on bed at night.

Eyes.

Yellow Conjunctiva. Objects appear red or yellow. Twitching of the left upper eyelid at the external canthus. Loss of sight when gazing at white objects as snow. White objects appear yellow. Dryness of the Conjunctiva. Burning heat in the eyeballs. Pain in the eyeballs on hard pressure. Deep seated aching boring throbbing or burning pains in the eyeballs.

Photophobia. Pains appear in the morning before or soon after rising. Dark waving lines seen on each side of eyes. Sensation of sand in the eyes with flow of scalding tears. Dilated pupils. Chronic inflammation and weakness of the eyes. (Cataract.)

Ears.

The ears feel stopped up. Humming in the ears at night in bed. Sound as of falling water in the ears at night in bed. Headache with roaring and singing in the ears. Bubbling in the ears. Ringing in the ears on waking. Dullness of hearing from absence of mind. The left ear is chiefly affected. Deafness (?) Smokers of tobacco in excess prematurely lose their sight and hearing

Nose.

Itching and dryness of the nose. Chronic Nasal catarrh (?) Ozoena (?) Nasal Polypus (?).

Face.

Burning heat and redness. Flushes of heat. Bronze color beneath the eyes. Staring, stupefied look. Dark circles around the eyes. Sunken cheeks. Deathly paleness of the face. Tobacco is said to produce a pustulous eruption on the face.

Teeth.

Rapid decay, with excessive sensitiveness of the teeth. Yellowness of the Teeth. Gums are red, inflamed, swollen, and loose. They are sensitive and easily bleed.

The teeth are sensitive to a draught of cold air and to cold water. Gum boils (?)

Mouth.

Constant drivelling of saliva. In the morning the tongue is coated white, yellow, or brown or white at the tip, and yellow at the root. Bitter taste of water and at night. Insipid flat taste in the morning. Sour, putrid, sweetish or metallic taste in the morning. Dry parched mouth with desire for ice-water. The juice of the petals of the Tobacco plant produce complete salivation. Pains in the gums. Wasting of the gums (?) Cancer of the lip (?).

Throat.

Scraping and roughness in the morning on waking, and hawking up a thick

tenacious mucus. Thick husky voice. Tonsilitis (?) Clergymens Sorethroat (?) Ulceration of the Larynx (?) Stricture of the Asophagus (?) Tobacco is said to correct a disposition to sorethroat.

Appetite.

Voracious appetite at mid-day and at bed time. Hunger at noon, sinking at the epigastrum, and Nausea unless food is taken. Desire for acids and stimulating spices. Meat disagrees; and pastry is followed by acid and rancid risings. Gnawing emptiness on waking.

Gastric Symptoms.

Nausea from the least movement. Sinquitus after a meal. Painful retching. Loud Sinquitus. Sour or acid risings in the

throat. Sour vomiting. Distressing vomiting of bile, acid water and mucus. Motion from side to side and rising up excite the vomiting. Nausea when lying on the back — disappearing when in the cool air. Vomiting accompanied with cold sweat and complete prostration; or with trembling of the body and congestion to the head. Painful vomiting followed by a breaking out of sweat. Loathing of food. Dyrosis. Gastrodynia.

Stomach.

Dull aching pain at the Cardiac Orifice. Boring pain. Distressing sinking and sensation of emptiness at the epigastrium. Cramp in the stomach. Glowing heat in the stomach.

Abdomen.

Steady aching in the Liver neither relieved nor aggravated by pressure. Torpor of the Liver. Malignant disease of the Liver (?)

Stool.

White, claylike Stool. Dry hard knotted feces. Loose Yellow, or foetid dark brown Stools. Light colored watery evacuations. Inability to fully discharge the feces, there being tenesmus of the Rectum with a sensation as if all was not expelled. Very large feces. Straining at Stool causes the head to ache in the left Parietal region. Constant desire to defecate. Prolapsus Ani. Hemorrhoids. Neuralgia of the Rectum (?). Burning and pain in the anus after a Stool. Burning in the anus from acrid

discharges. Old Tobacco chewers are troubled with diarrhoea.

Kidneys.

The urine is profuse and colorless, or scanty and high colored. Urging to urinate, with burning during urination. Inability to fully discharge the urine. Incontinence of urine. According to Dr Pront, urinary disorders are produced by Oxalic, or some Analagous acid that is generated in the System from the use of Tobacco.

Larynx.

A dry cough in old Smokers from dryness, tickling and itching in the Larynx.

Chest.

Dull boring pain in the heart just beneath

the left nipple — on waking. Aching and distressing fulness at the heart. Palpitation of the heart when lying on the left side Palpitation of the heart and beating in the head at the same time. Hurried, deep breathing Oppression relieved by deep drawn sighs. Great sinking at the heart, with anxiety, and oppresion of the chest. Inability to take a full breath. Exercise causes shortness of breath and palpitation of the heart. Weakness of the Spine (?)

Extremities.

Trembling of the hands under the least excitement Trembling of the hand when writing. Weariness especially in the calves. Feet easily blistered and difficult to heal. Phagedenic Bullae (?) Cramps in the Calves (?)

Antidotes.

(1) Nux Vomica and Chamomilla (2) Ipecacuanha and Ignatia (3) Pulsatilla Mercurius Solubilis, Antimonium Crudum and Carbo Vegetabilis. Other remedies mentioned by Authors as antidotes are Aconite, Bryonia, China, Cocculus, Colocynth, Cuprum, Staphysagria, Veratrum and Vinum. Tobacco is recommended as an antidote to Cicuta and Stramonium

Nux Vomica. Headache on rising in the morning, with bitter or sour taste aching in the forehead and vertex, with pressure on the vertex. General chilliness, shuddering, with cold hands and feet. Tongue is white, with nausea and constipated bowels

The feces are hard, knotted or of an inordinate size. The pains are aggravated by motion; sometimes almost disappearing during rest. This remedy is of service where Chamomile tea has been drunk in large quantities.

Chamomilla. Throbbing, aching, boring or burning pains in the head eyeballs or orbital regions. Sensation as if the brain undulated on moving. Palpitation of the heart, with undulation and beating in the head. Burning heat of the head and hands sometimes accompanied with slight chills. The eyes are dry and painful to the touch.

The tongue is yellow or white at the tip and yellow at the root. Acid and acred risings in the throat - also after a meal. Nausea. Vomiting of bile and water or of sour water. The Conjunctiva is yellow. The feces are constipated and clay-colored or loose and yellow. Vertigo. Sudden momentary blindness on rising. Blindness lasting for some time and followed by intense pains in the head and eyes. Insipid or bitter taste. The patient seems unable to bear the pains - he is passionate, irritable and despairs of relief. The pains are aggravated to an intolerable extent by the least motion; relieved somewhat

by pressure and cold applications.
excepting the eyeballs where the appli-
cation of too much cold Causes Nausea.
Chamomilla acts as a specific for the
steady aching pain, and fulness in
the Liver.

Ipecacuanha. The headache is accompanied
with a thickly coated yellow tongue,
Constant Nausea and excessive vomi-
ting of bile.

Ignatia. Throbbing aching pains in the
head or at the root of the nose. Aching
at the root of the nose with a sensation
as if it were Compressed in a vice.
Nausea with trembling and retching.
Pale face. Profuse colorless urine.
Sinking at the pit of the Stomach which

Unless relieved Causes Nausea.

Pulsatilla. In gastric disorders with a sour taste; disgust and loathing of food; particularly of fat food.

Antimonium Crudum and Carbo Vegetabilis if acrid risings in the throat seem unconnected with any other disturbance.

Mercurius. Constant urging to Stool with constipation of the bowels.

Veratrum. Vomiting with coldness of the extremities and great prostration.

Camphor, Belladonna and Chamomilla will according to the accompanying Symptoms remove the distressing wakefulness. The application of hot water to the feet will prove very grateful to the patient from mitigating somewhat

the violence of the pains in his head and eyes.

The Homœopathic application of Nicotiana Tabacum to diseases, is limited somewhat by its general consumption as a luxury; but it must prove like coffee, which labors under the same disadvantage, a most valuable remedy. It has been used with success in Sea-sickness — in Vertigo on rising in the morning and on moving with a sensation as if a veil was before the eyes — in Vomiting and purging simulating Asiatic Cholera — in Paralysis of the tongue and of the left side — in Asthma — where there is great mental excitement — where there is a predisposition to Insanity, and

here it may be remarked that raving maniacs earnestly demand Tobacco in some form, and when obtained, it relieves their sufferings without inducing gastric derangements. Dr. Leste observes "In Lentigo I have seen good effects from Tobacco in four or five cases. But it has to be continued in small doses for weeks and even months. A country girl had her hands and face covered with freckles, two thirds of which disappeared completely in Summer, when these spots are most frequent and obstinate." He also observes that Tobacco undoubtedly corresponds to the diseases for which Belladonna is indicated, and has indeed been used more or less in Allopathic practice in most of the af-

fections where Belladonna has been found efficacious.

Many eminent writers have asserted that the discovery and use of Tobacco as a luxury has been almost as potent for evil, and as great a curse to the human race, as alcoholic liquors; and it is still a disputed point whether it is a greater curse or blessing. I am inclined to the latter opinion; and therefore believe that its discovery has been, and still continues to be a great boon to mankind for there are doubtless at this time thousands of "men of peculiar, impulsive, and irritable dispositions, who are perfectly sane under the continued influence of this potent plant, and who

without it would ere this have been inmates of a lunatic asylum.

Notwithstanding this it has been charged with vitiating the tastes and leading to the use of alcoholic drinks; with rendering the mind of man imbecile and prematurely depriving him of sight and hearing. This holds true only with those whose idiosyncrasy of constitution is such as to induce serious and alarming phenomena on first commencing its use; indeed the same may be asserted of the whole series of condiments and even the ordinary dietetic articles of our daily food. It is the idiosyncrasy of every individual that should be studied before we decide as

to the hurtful or healthful tendency of any of the luxuries or aliments of life. Persons addicted to its use for years have never experienced the slightest inconvenience from it, but on the contrary whose minds are so clear as to enable them to work out the most difficult problems of the abstruse sciences. It would seem therefore to be most suitable to business, literary and professional men, who are of a peculiarly impulsive irritable temperament, subject to sudden outbursts of passion and of great energy of character. To such its moderate daily use, more especially by smoking calms the mind and restores the harmony of the system to its normal state. Thus

to the Medical Man as a remedial agent this much abused weed may be considered invaluable, provided he will analyze the temperaments of his patrons, and recommend its use to such only whose natures accord with the indications noted above. Surely Providence never could have ordained that this plant indigenous to such a large extent of Country and growing luxuriantly in so many soils, should spring up into existence, otherwise than for a wise and beneficent purpose; and its mission I think is amply fulfilled if myriads of his frail creatures have been saved by its healing virtues from the cheerless and monotonous life doled out in the cell of the Maniac.

Geo. Wolfe.